

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of measuring the extent of resources provided by a second user computer to a first user computer in a distributed network, said method comprising the steps of:

- (A) associating a first trusted entity with the first user computer;
- (B) associating a second trusted entity with the second user computer;
- (C) receiving at a resource usage verification authority (RUVA) server, from the first trusted entity, information about an intended resource use;
- (D) providing a ticket, from a said RUVA server to the first trusted entity, ~~wherein~~ said ticket including includes at least portion of said information;
- (E) transmitting said ticket from the first trusted entity to the second trusted entity;
- (F) the second trusted entity modifying the ticket to produce a modified ticket, said modified ticket being based at least in part upon actual resources provided by said second computer to said first computer ~~modify the ticket~~;
- (G) said second trusted entity transmitting said modified ticket to the first trusted entity;
- (H) said first trusted entity transmitting having the first trusted entity send the modified ticket to the RUVA server; and
- (I) said RUVA server utilizing said ticket and said modified ticket to determine the extent of resources provided by the second user computer to the first user computer.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the resources provided by the second ~~user computer~~ include at least one of provision of a file, provision of bandwidth, provision of CPU cycles, or provision of disk or memory storage.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ticket issued by the RUVA server comprises at least one of a machine identification field, a field for a file name, a field for a hash of a file, a field for a randomly generated number, a weighting field, a time field, a value field, or a date field.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the RUVA server stores a copy of said ticket.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket by checking ~~for a signature from~~ that the ticket has been signed by the RUVA server.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising said first trusted entity validating ~~the step of having the first trusted entity validate~~ the ticket.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of the RUVA server authenticating ~~having the server authenticate~~ the identity of the first trusted entity prior to, ~~or subsequent to,~~ issuing said ticket.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first trusted entity is a module incorporating authentication, encryption or data signing capabilities in data communication with a computing device.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first trusted entity comprises a receipt request generator, receipt generator module, and receipt validation module.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of the RUVA server conducting ~~having the server conduct~~ a redundancy check ~~prior to, or subsequent to, issuing the ticket.~~

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~step of conducting~~ the redundancy check comprises ~~is achieved by~~ determining whether a file being accessed by the first computer user has ~~not~~ already been downloaded by said first computer.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the ticket by ~~having the second trusted entity modify the ticket~~ comprises at least signing or authenticating the ticket.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of ~~having the first trusted entity validate said signed ticket~~ validating the signed ticket.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the ticket by ~~having the second trusted entity modify the ticket~~

comprises adding details of the extent of resources shared by the second ~~user~~
computer.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of said first trusted entity organizing ~~having the first trusted entity organize~~ a plurality of tickets into a record and communicating said record to the RUVA server.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of determining, from said record, the extent of resources provided by a plurality of second ~~users~~ computers to a plurality of first ~~users~~ computers and modifying a database to record the extent of resources provided by said plurality of second ~~users~~ computers to said plurality of first ~~users~~ computers.

17-37. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims:

38. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein said RUVA server signs said ticket, the method further comprising the first trusted entity validating said signed ticket.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket.

40. (NEW) The method of claim 39 wherein the second trusted entity validates the ticket by checking for a signature from the RUVA server.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
said RUVA server authenticating the first trusted entity.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
allocating value to said second user based upon said determination of the
extent of resources provided by the second user.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 10 wherein said redundancy check
comprises
a check that the transaction has not been repeated.

44. (NEW) The method of claim 10 wherein the redundancy check is
performed prior to issuing said ticket.

45. (NEW) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of conducting the
redundancy check comprises determining whether a file being accessed by the first
computer has already been downloaded in whole or in part.

46. (NEW) The method of claim 10 wherein said redundancy check
comprises
a check that a resource usage ticket has not already been issued for the
same download.

47. (NEW) A method of measuring the extent of resources provided to a
first computer by a second computer in a distributed network, said network
including a resource usage verification authority (RUVA) server, said method
comprising the steps of:

- (A) associating a first trusted entity with the first computer;
- (B) associating a second trusted entity with the second computer;
- (C) receiving at said RUVA server, from the first trusted entity, information about an intended resource use by said first computer;
- (D) said RUVA server providing a ticket to the first trusted entity, said ticket including at least portion of said information;
- (E) transmitting said ticket from the first trusted entity to the second trusted entity;
- (F) the second trusted entity modifying the ticket, said modification being based at least in part upon actual resource use;
- (G) said second trusted entity transmitting said modified ticket to the first trusted entity;
- (H) said first trusted entity transmitting the modified ticket to the RUVA server; and
- (I) said RUVA server utilizing said ticket and said modified ticket to determine the extent of resources provided by the second computer to the first computer; and
- (J) allocating value to said second user based upon said determination of the extent of resources provided by the second user.